

attempted to identify claims that fall within each of the identified species. Specifically, independent claim 18 appears to fall within species A, and independent claims 19 and 20 appear to fall within species B. Applicants elect to prosecute claims falling within species B and, thus, request that the Examiner withdraw claims falling within species A from consideration. Because claims 22-34 depend from independent claim 18, claims 18 and 22-34 are believed to fall under species A. Accordingly, claims 18 and 22-34 may be withdrawn from consideration.

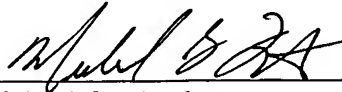
Because claims 35-47 are dependent upon independent claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that each of these claims fall within species B as well, so Applicants elect to prosecute claims 35-47. However, to the extent that the Examiner believes that claims 37 and 38 further fall within species A as well as species B, claims 37 and 38 may be withdrawn from consideration, although Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 37 and 38 if independent claim 19 is found to be allowable. Similarly, because claims 21 and 48-60 are dependent upon independent claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that each of these claims fall under species B as well, so Applicants elect to prosecute claims 21 and 48-60. However, to the extent that the Examiner believes that claims 21, 50, and 51 further fall under species A as well as species B, claim 21, 50, and 51 may be withdrawn from consideration, although Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 21, 50, and 51 if independent claim 20 is found to be allowable.

In summary, Applicants respectfully request that claims 18 and 22-34 be withdrawn from consideration as falling under species A. Applicants respectfully request examination

of claims 19-21 and 35-60 as falling under species B. However, if the Examiner believes that dependent claims 21, 37, 38, 50, and 51 fall under species A as well as species B, these claims may be temporarily withdrawn from consideration, although Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims if claims 19 and 20 are found to be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 9, 2003



---

Michael G. Fletcher

Reg. No. 32,777

FLETCHER, YODER & VAN SOMEREN

P.O. Box 692289

Houston, Texas 77269-2289